

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An alfalfa plant with detectable levels of tannins.
2. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the tannins are detectable in the leaves.
3. The alfalfa plant of claim 2, wherein the tannins are condensed tannins.
4. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for tannins that is higher than that found naturally when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
5. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for tannins that is greater than about 0.0 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
6. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for tannins that is about 1.0 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
7. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for tannins that is about 1.5 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
8. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for tannins that is greater than about 2.0 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
9. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for condensed tannins that is about 2.5 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
10. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for condensed tannins that is about 3.0 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.

11. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for condensed tannins that is about 3.5 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
12. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for condensed tannins that is about 4.0 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
13. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for condensed tannins that is about 4.5 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
14. The alfalfa plant of claim 1, wherein the plant has a visual staining score for condensed tannins that is about 5.0 or higher when using the DMACA-HCL protocol.
15. The alfalfa plant of 4, wherein the tannins are condensed tannins.
16. The alfalfa plant of claim 4, wherein the plant is the progeny of one of the parent plants listed in Table 3.
17. Seed of the alfalfa plant of claim 1, claim 4 or claim 15.
18. Pollen of the alfalfa plant of claim 1, claim 4 or claim 15.
19. Seed of an alfalfa plant pollinated by the pollen of claim 7.
20. An alfalfa plant produced by the seed of claim 17 or regenerable parts of said seed.
21. An alfalfa plant having the physiological and morphological characteristics of the plant of claim 1, claim 4 or claim 15.

22. A method of producing alfalfa plants with detectable levels of condensed tannins comprising identifying and isolating alfalfa plants with increased levels of condensed tannins, crossing these plants with other alfalfa plants, and harvesting and planting the resultant seeds, wherein the plants grown from the resultant seeds have increased levels of condensed tannins when compared to the other alfalfa plants.
23. Seed of alfalfa germplasm designated CW 28061 and having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5611.
24. Seed of alfalfa germplasm designated CW 29053 and having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5612.
25. A tissue culture of regenerable cells, the cells comprising genetic material from a synthetic variety alfalfa plant named CW 28061, wherein the cells regenerate plants having all the morphological and physiological characteristics of the synthetic alfalfa variety named CW 28061 and having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5611.
26. A tissue culture of regenerable cells, the cells comprising genetic material from a synthetic variety alfalfa plant named CW 29053, wherein the cells regenerate plants having all the morphological and physiological characteristics of the synthetic alfalfa variety named CW 29053 and having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5612.
27. A method for producing first-generation synthetic variety alfalfa seed comprising crossing a first parent alfalfa plant with a second parent alfalfa plant and harvesting resultant first-generation (F1) hybrid alfalfa seed, wherein said first or second parent alfalfa plant is the alfalfa plant of claim 1, claim 4 or claim 15.
28. Feed for a ruminant population comprising alfalfa plants having increased tannin levels.

29. The feed of claim 28, wherein the feed is selected from the group consisting of greencop, silage, hay and dehy.

30. Alfalfa plants with improved bloat safety.

31. A method of increasing rumen by-pass of protein comprising feeding a ruminant on the feed of claim 28.